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SUBJECT: DARFUR/SUDAN: UPDATE ON JEM THINKING BY GIBRIL  
IBRAHIM

REF: A. LONDON 953  
[1](#)B. KHARTOUM 829

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Daniel McNicholas, reasons 1.  
4 (b/d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. Senior Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Representative Gibril Ibrahim said July 20 that JEM is "not venue shopping" for peace talks and continues to support the Doha talks, and that the international community needs to put pressure on the Government of Sudan (GoS) to implement its previous agreements in Doha, without a ceasefire pre-condition. JEM does not want to be involved in the "mess" the Libyans are organizing and assess that Fur leader Abdulwahid al-Nour remains recalcitrant. JEM will not allow elections to take place in Darfur and will not give the GoS the "pleasure" of saying it has a new mandate from the whole of Sudan, as JEM plans to ensure a "difficult time" for the Government during the conduct of the elections in Darfur and Kordofan. The South will be weakened by participating in the elections, as Khartoum is not a good faith partner, just as the South has been weakened by the census results which unfairly establish the population of the South. The humanitarian situation in Darfur has not gotten better, as the humanitarian gap left by the expulsion of the international NGOs is "too large to be filled quickly," though the violence has been quiet recently. Tensions between Chad and Sudan continue to soar, and the exchanges of ambassadors, completed only to please the international community, was not meaningful and will not improve communication. End summary.

Doha: Moving The Talks Forward  
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[1](#)2. (C) Recently returned from Eritrea and Egypt, Senior Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Representative Gibril Ibrahim told Poloff July 20 that JEM continues to support the Doha peace talks, which have stalled because the Government of Sudan (GoS) will not uphold the agreement it made in Doha without a ceasefire precondition. Ibrahim said a ceasefire was unacceptable to JEM because it would assist the GoS in its election preparations. Ibrahim said that he was planning to travel to Libya at the invitation of the Libyans, but that JEM does not plan to participate in the "Tripoli Group" talks, which he characterized as "a mess without a clear plan, like the Sirte talks" (ref B). In order for the Doha talks to move forward, Ibrahim said the international community needs to put pressure on the GoS to implement its part of the agreement, as the Qataris "do not have any leverage over the GoS." Ibrahim listed the next steps: GoS implementation of the agreement including the exchange of prisoners, a framework agreement for peace talks after which

a seize fire could be concluded, then peace talks could begin. Of Abdulwahid al-Noor, Ibrahim said he remains recalcitrant in Paris, saying the same things he has said for the past four years. He suggested that others could represent the Fur, and the international community could help the Fur in finding a new representative. He also commented that he thought the Fur were ready for new leadership, as they had gotten nothing from Abdulwahid's non-engagement.

North/South:

Elections - Weakening the South, JEM To Make "Difficult"

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13. (C) Ibrahim said the conduct of the elections was not in the South's interest and would weaken its authority in the Government of National Unity (GNU), just as the census had done. He also affirmed that JEM would not participate in the elections and would make it "difficult" for the elections to be conducted in Darfur and in Kordofan. Ibrahim predicted that Bashir would stand again, would win, and would use his new mandate to fight the International Criminal Court indictment. Ibrahim said JEM would not allow Bashir to claim any "legitimacy from elections conducted throughout the whole of Sudan" by prevent the conduct of polls in Darfur and Kordofan. When asked how JEM would make it "difficult," Ibrahim simply smiled and said "yes," presumably referring to military action on the ground.

14. (C) Ibrahim described the South as "preoccupied." JEM continues to try to reach out to form alliances, but Ibrahim confessed JEM was getting little traction. He assessed that internal leadership struggles, persistent capacity gaps, and

now the determination of Abyei would obstruct any meaningful dialogue with the South for the foreseeable future.

15. (C) Commenting on the trilateral dialogue with the U.S., Ibrahim said he will not be surprised when the USG becomes "disappointed by the carrots it has offered Khartoum." "You don't need to reinvent the wheel to know that Khartoum will not change," he said.

In Darfur: Quiet, But Humanitarian Situation Still Bad

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16. (C) Ibrahim said that Darfur has been "quiet," but the humanitarian situation still remains bad because of the capacity lost with the expulsion of the international NGOs delivering aid in the camps. He said though JEM lacked statistics to demonstrate the reduction in humanitarian support, IDPs continued to complain of poor access to water, food, and medical care. He said that NGOs coming in to backfill those that were expelled have been slow in coming and lacked the experience on the ground to deliver effectively.

Chad-Sudan

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17. (C) Tension between Chad and Sudan remain high, and the exchange of ambassadors, which had taken place largely to please the international community, had not improved communication, he said. He said both sides had begun to make accusations about the other's continued attempts for regime change. He anticipated the bad relationship would continue to cause problems.

Eritrea's All Sudan Political Party Forum

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18. (C) Ibrahim said he recently returned from Eritrea where the Eritreans had proposed an all Sudan political party forum in Asmara. Indicating that the idea was still in the consultative stage, he said that the Eritreans continue to pursue "a comprehensive peace to Sudan's problems, as they understand that Khartoum is the problem for both Juba and Darfur." He said JEM would participate if the Eritreans get

other parties to commit as well. No date has been set.

#### JEM's Next Steps

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19. (C) Referencing JEM's recent announcement in Cairo of an agreement with the Ummah Party, Ibrahim said JEM's plan was to continue to pursue serious peace talks, to build alliances inside and outside Sudan, and to build support amongst IDPs.

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